

CLAIMS

1. A device for fixing an object to a tree, the device including:  
an elongate body, one end of which is adapted for attachment to a tree, in  
use an object being slidably mounted on the elongate body, and  
5 a device for biasing an object slidably mounted on the elongate body  
towards the end of the body adapted for attachment to the tree,  
in use, pressure resulting from growth of the tree being transmitted to the  
object and pushing it along the elongate body against the bias and away from  
the tree.
- 10 2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the elongate body is adapted for  
attachment to a tree by being fitted with a fixing member.
3. A device according to Claim 2, wherein the fixing member tapers to a  
sharp end point.
4. A device according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein the fixing member is provided  
15 with a screw thread for helping insert it into the tree and keep it in place.
5. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the  
biasing device applies pressure that is usually slightly lower than that pressure  
resulting from expansion of a growing tree, e.g. a pressure in the range of 7 - 8  
kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 20 6. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the  
biasing device is formed of a resilient material.
7. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the  
biasing device comprises a compression spring.
8. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein one end

of the biasing device abuts the object.

9. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, further including a component, such as a washer or a ring, that is slidably mounted on the elongate body between the object and the tree so that the tree at least partially contacts the component, the component at least partially transmitting the pressure to the object.

10. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the length of the elongate body is adjustable.

11. A device according to Claim 10, wherein the elongate body is comprised of a plurality of elongate members.

12. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the elongate member is generally cylindrical.

13. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein some or all of the components forming the device are formed of plastics or metal material, such as stainless steel.

14. A device according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the object is part of a lightning protection system for the tree.

15. A device for fixing an object to a tree, the device including:  
an elongate body, one end of which is adapted for attachment to a tree;  
an object slidably mounted on the elongate body, and  
a device for biasing the object towards the end of the body adapted for attachment to the tree,

in use, pressure resulting from growth of the tree being transmitted to the object and pushing it along the elongate body against the bias and away from

the tree.

16. A lightning protection system for a tree including a device according to any one of the preceding Claims.

17. A device for fixing an object to a tree substantially as described herein

5 and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.